

March 25, 2014

Matt S. Erskine
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Erskine:

As the Economic Development Administration considers proposals for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative, I would like to bring to your attention a proposal submitted by the Cities of Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio in partnership with the Dayton Development Coalition and Cincinnati USA for the Southwest Ohio Aerospace Region (SOAR) project.

From the innovations of the Wright Brothers to the work being done at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Ohio Aerospace Institute, the Southwest Ohio region has a strong tradition in aerospace systems and manufacturing. The region's aerospace companies are well-supported by public officials, planning and nonprofit organizations, and residents. This funding will support aerospace manufacturing jobs and innovation in 27 Ohio counties and accelerate job creation in the region.

Please give all possible consideration to this proposal. I ask that you keep my office informed of the status of this application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator